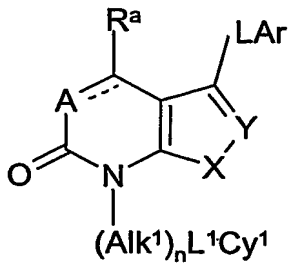
Claims:

1. A compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein

the dashed line joining A and C(R^a) is present and represents a bond and A is a -N= atom or a -C(R^b)= group, or the dashed line is absent and A is a -N(R^b)- or -C(R^b)(R^c)- group;

R^a, R^b and R^c is each independently a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, -CN, -CO_2H, -CO_2R^1 (where R^1 is an optionally substituted alkyl group), -$CONH_2$, -$CONHR^1$ or -$CONR^1R^2$ group (where R^2 is an optionally substituted alkyl group);

X is an -O-, -S- or substituted nitrogen atom or a -S(O)-, -$S(O)_2$- or -NH- group;

Y is a nitrogen or substituted carbon atom or a -CH= group;

n is zero or the integer 1;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Cy^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

L is an atom or chain -$(CH_2)_p$Het$(CH_2)_q$- in which p and q, which may be the same or different, is each zero or the integer 1 and Het is an -O- or -S- atom or a -C(R^{3a})(R^{3b})- (where R^{3a} and R^{3b}, which may be the same or different, is each a

hydrogen atom or an -OH or optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group), -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -$S(O)_2$-, -$N(R^{3c})$O- (where R^{3c} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group), -$N(R^{3c})$NH-, -$N(R^{3c})C(R^{3a})(R^{3b})$-, -$CON(R^{3c})$-, -$OC(O)N(R^{3c})$-, -$CSN(R^{3c})$-, -$N(R^{3c})CO$-, -$N(R^{3c})C(O)O$-, -$N(R^{3c})CS$-, -$S(O)_2N(R^{3c})$-, -$N(R^{3c})S(O)_2$-, -$N(R^{3c})CON(R^{3d})$- (where R^{3d} is as defined for R^{3c} and may be the same or different), -$N(R^{3c})CSN(R^{3d})$- or -$N(R^{3c})S(O)_2N(R^{3d})$- group and, when one or both of p and q is the integer 1, Het is additionally a -$N(R^{3c})$- group; and

Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and *N*-oxides thereof.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dashed line joining A and $C(R^a)$ is present and represents a bond and A is a -$C(R^b)$- group, in which R^a and R^b are as defined in claim 1.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein R^a and R^b are both hydrogen.

4. A compound as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein X is -S-.

5. A compound as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein Y is -$C(R^{10})$= in which R^{10} is -CN, -$CONH_2$ or -CO_2Alk^6 and Alk^6 is C_{1-4} alkyl.

6. A compound as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein Cy^1 is phenyl or cyclopropyl.

7. A compound as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein Ar represents phenyl, halophenyl, dihalophenyl, (C_{1-6} alkyl)phenyl, pyridinyl or (C_{1-6} alkyl)pyridinyl.

8. A compound as claimed in claim 1 as herein specifically disclosed in any one of the Examples.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. The use of a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of a disorder for which an inhibitor of p38 kinase is indicated.

11. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of a disorder for which an inhibitor of p38 kinase is indicated, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate or *N*-oxide thereof.